



1499-1636 The Spanish Colonization

Aruba facts

- 1499-1502 Discovery and conquest of Aruba by Spanish Alonso de Ojeda and/or Amerigo Vespucci, but considered it an "isla inutile", an useless island.
- 1515 Spanish deport 2000 local Arowak Indians as slaves to Hispaniola.
- 1621 To support their '80-year war' with Spain the Dutch founded the West Indian Compagnie (W.I.C.) to hijack Spanish galleons in the Caribbean.
- 1636 Average population: 20

Money
Spanish 2 Reaal coins and Maravedis used between 1600 and 1823. It is a so called 'cob' coin which meant 'cut out of bar' coin.



1636-1754 The Dutch Colonization

Aruba facts

- 1636 Holland conquers Aruba from Spain to strategically protect Curacao.
- 1654-1664 Peter Stuyvesant leases New (Amsterdam) York to England and rules the so called ABC-islands: Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao.
- 1754 Average population: 20.

Money
The silver Spanish 8 Reaal coin ('Spaanse matten' or 'Pillar dollar'), used between 1732 and 1821 was the most widely circulated coin in the 18th century; some 441 million pieces were produced. First issue of bank notes.



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